SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

The Indochinese Peoples Will Win

TWO differing strategic postures are shaping up on the battlefields of the three Indochinese countries. Shoulder to shoulder their peoples are fighting perseveringly, courageously, and successfully. The US invading forces and the Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane mercenary troops are dodging their adversary's punches and trying to secure a position of strength in their losing posture; but the more they wriggle, the deeper they sink into the quagmire. It is a conjuncture highly inspiring for the three Indochinese peoples and their friends across the world and greatly embarrassing for their enemy.

IN 1971, with only one year to spare before the US presidential elections, Nixon has been bending all his energies on testing the "Vietnamization" after elaborate preparations. He deployed all of the Saigon mobile strategic forces with the highest level of US coordination in successive major actions in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, which culminated in Operations "Lam Son 719" and "Total Victory 1-71." Nixon aimed at high ambitions in those operations: on the one hand, test the capabilities of the mercenary troops — backbone of "Vietnamization" — against the Liberation forces, thereby proving their ability to "stand on their feet"; on the other hand, weaken the three Indochinese peoples' forces by destroying their strategic supply lines and resistance bases, thereby making it difficult for them to mount major offensives for a long time. Nixon also hoped for a military decision in this period to turn the tide in Viet Nam and Indochina, and score points for his presidential campaign.

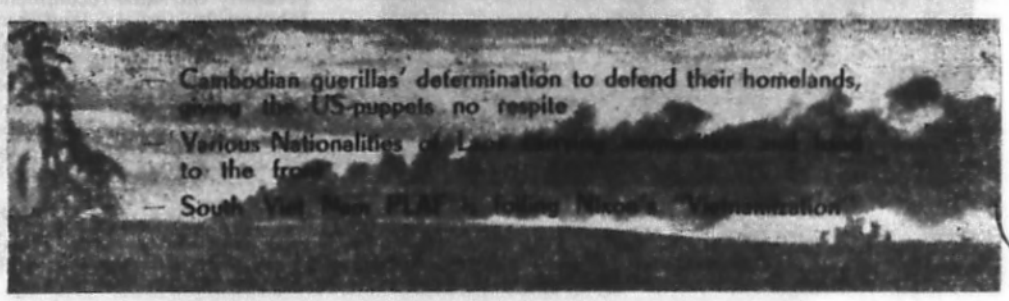
His and his confederates' strategic intentions were far-reaching and very vicious, and his reverses, consequently, unprecedented. United, confident and animated with a single purpose, the Indochinese peoples shattered the US strategic plans thoroughly, and upset all of Nixon's strategic designs.

The US did not attain any of its strategic targets, did not succeed in cutting off adverse supply route, nor in wiping out the resistance bases of the opponent. Instead, its own forces were depleted, and its position downgraded.

THE Indochinese peoples' substantial gains have led to most relevant conclusions on a number of essential problems related to the tough confrontation between the two sides:

"Vietnamization" of the war has been put to a very hard test where one of its strategic objectives,

(Continued page 3)



Cambodian guerillas' determination to defend their homelands, giving the US-puppets no respite

Various Nationalities of Laos[illegible] to the fro[illegible]

— South Viet Nam PLAF [illegible] Nixon's Vietnamization

U.S. AGGRESSORS AND "PUBLIC SAFETY" IN SOUTH VIET NAM

(Concluded)

SURVEILLANCE of persons and organizations suspected of harboring antigovernment sentiments is the responsibility of the NP's Special Police Branch (SP). The Special Branch is nothing more or less than Viet Nam's secret police; originally the Indochinese branch of the French Sûreté, the SP was known as the Vietnamese Bureau of Investigation during the Diem regime. According to the 1962 decree establishing the National Police, the SP was given the responsibilities of: "Gathering information on political activities," and "carrying out undercover operations throughout the country, searching for, investigating, keeping track of, and prosecuting elements engaged in subversive activities." OPS documents state that "SP agents penetrate subversive organizations" and use intelligence collection, political data [and] dossiers compiled from census data [...] to separate the bad guys from the good." AID has nothing to say about the criteria used to separate the "bad guys" from the "good guys"; anyone familiar with the Vietnamese scene knows, however, that the SP's major responsibility is surveillance of noncommunist groups that could pose a political challenge to the regime in power. Thus D. Gareth Porter, writing in **The Nation**, notes that

> ... students, intellectuals, Buddhist monks and anyone who has been involved in political, social or educational activity, are the objects of special suspicion, and detailed dossiers are compiled for each individual from reports of plainclothesmen and informers who infiltrate every student, religious or social welfare group.

Persons who advocate negotiations with the NFL are routinely picked up by the Special Police and sentenced to stiff prison terms.

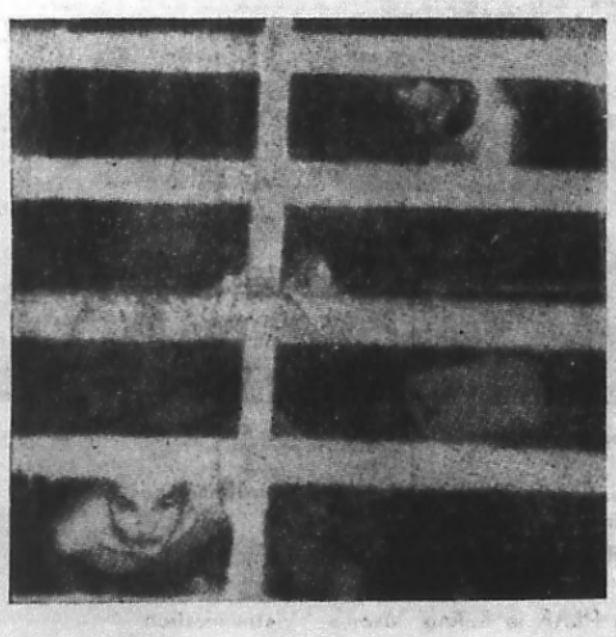
Pacification usually brings to mind "good will" projects like school construction and free medical care; in Viet Nam, however, the paramount task of the US pacification effort is the identification and neutralization of the local NFL administrative apparatus — in Pentagon nomenclature the "Viet Cong Infrastructure" (VCI). The counter-infrastructure campaign was initiated by the CIA in July 1968 as the **Phuong Hoang** program — better known in English as Operation Phoenix. This program, incorporated into the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support effort, is described by American officials as "a systematic effort at intelligence coordination and exploitation." In the **intelligence** phase, all allied intelligence services — including South Viet Nam's Special Branch and America's CIA and military intelligence organizations — are supposed to pool the data they have collected (or forcibly extracted) from informers and prisoners on the identity of NLF cadres. It is for this ultimate purpose that most of the other police functions described above — interdiction, identification, registration and surveillance — are carried on. In the **exploitation** phase of Phoenix, members of the paramilitary National Police Field Forces (NPFF), sometimes assisted by the Army, make secret, small-scale raids into contested areas to seize or eliminate persons who have been identified by the intelligence services as "VCI agents." In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the head of CORDS, ex-CIA agent William E.Colby stated that in 1969 a total of 19 534 suspected VCI agents had been "neutralized" — of this number 6 187 had been killed, 8 515 arrested, and 4 832 persuaded to join the Saigon side. Colby insisted that Phoenix did not constitute an "assassination" or "counterterror" operation.

In order to sustain these activities, the US provides the National Police with a steady flow of funds, supplies, technical assistance, and other resources. US counterpart funds have been used to finance construction of the NP's High Command School, interrogation facilities, firearms ranges, training schools, ammunition reloading plant, Marine Police bases, and the Central Saigon Police Garage. Expansion of South Viet Nam's 41 civilian prison centers (to accommodate more "suspected VC" captured in the Phoenix operation), is being supervised by OPS personnel. One begins to appreciate the breadth of this operation by reading AID's 1971 budget request — 13 million dollars is being sought to achieve the following "Project Targets" in the next 18 months:

> ...provision of commodity and advisery support for a police force of 108 000 men by the end of FY 1971; [...] assisting the National Identity Registration Program (NIRP) to register more than 12 000 000 persons 15 years of age and over by the end of 1971; continuing to provide basic and specialized training for approximately 40 000 police annually; providing technical assistance to the police detention system including planning and supervision for an additional 8 000 inmates during 1970 and helping to achieve a major increase in the number of police presently working (6 000) at the village level.

This presentation, it must be remembered, only represents programs under AID authority; missing from this prospectus are NP activities financed by the CIA and the Defense Department. Military Assistance funds are used to finance the activities of the paramilitary National Police Field Forces, which, by January 1969, constituted a small army of 12 000 men organized into 75 companies (our expansion plans for a total complement of 22 500 men and 108 companies by the end of this year). Because of the "military commonality" of their equipment, all commodities support to the NPFF is provided by the Pentagon. The extent of CIA contributions to the National Police is of course impossible to determine: it is known, however, that the CIA has been involved in modernizing Viet Nam's secret police files since 1955. One does not have to invoke the sinister image of the CIA, however, to establish beyond a doubt that the United States is intimately involved in every barbarous act committed by the South Vietnamese police on behalf of the Saigon government.

IN studying the US Public Safety program abroad, one is sooner or later struck by the extent to which the goals, doctrines and practices of this program have been adopted by the authorities here as an answer to our own internal difficulties. Thus when Administrator Bell tells us that "public safety forces have done and can do much to prevent conspiracy and the development of disruptive situations, and to insure an environment of law and order which supports the orderly social, economic, and political development of emerging nations," one can easily picture Ronald Reagan or Spiro Agnew speaking in the same tems of our own police apparatus. AID spokesmen have in fact made a determined effort to advise other government officials of the domestic application of techniques developed by OPS for use abroad. In September 1967, Public Safety Director Byron Engle told the National Advisery Commission on Civil Disorders (Kerner Commission) that, "In working with police in various countries [...] we have acquired a great deal of experience in dealing with violence ranging from demonstrations and riots to guerrilla warfare." Much of this experience, he asserted, "may be helpful in the United States." Among the specific recommendations made by Engle for the control of urban disorders were: the massive use of chemical munitions, stringently enforced curfews, and the establishment of special tactical police units available on a 24-hour stand-by basis. Precisely the same recommendations were made to President Johnson by former Pentagon aide Cyrus Vance, and were later put into effect in Washington, DC, when rioting broke out following the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. And when, in the wake of this rioting, Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, a principal feature of the Public Safety program—Federal assistance to local police forces—became an established mechanism for domestic law enforcement."



"Tiger cages," a US-puppet method to ensure "public security" in South Viet Nam

MICHAEL KLARE
From **Tricontinental**
Nos 21-22 November 1970 — February 1971.

IN THE CITIES

o On August 24, 65 mass organizations, religious groups, political parties, personalities, intellectuals, lawyers, women... urged in a joint statement the cancellation of the trial of the Saigon Students' leader Huynh Tan Mam and the release of 5 other students.

On August 25, the Thieu administration had to postpone the students' trial and set free Nguyen Xuan Lap, head of the Buddhist Students' Delegation, *after 25 days of illegal detention.*

• On August 25, 4 Saigon priests protested against the unlawful trial of 21 students and demanded the release of 5 students detained at Chi Hoa prison.

o On September 1, thousands of Saigon students attended the funeral of Pham Hanh, a Buddhist student who had died during his forced military training at Quang Trung camp. The procession was turned into an anti-US-Thieu demonstration under the slogans: "Thieu is war", "Cancel students' military training!", "Bunker go home!"

o In Mid-August, the Committee for Lower Income-tax *denounced Thieu's reprisal and called on the workers to step-up their action. Eight members of its secretariat are known to have been arrested and questioned by the police.*

o 44 mass organizations in Saigon, Hue..., including the People's Front for Peace, the Movement for the Women's Right to Live, the Saigon Students' General Association and the Saigon Pupils' General Association, *signed a joint statement condemning the Thieu administration's persecution of the opposition and pressing for the release of Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, President of* the Movement for the Women's Right to Live.

"The Thieu administration and the US administration are responsible for the detention of Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh," the statement said.

• The People's Front for Peace, the Movement for the Women's Right to Live *and many other mass organizations in Vinh Long, Tra Vinh and Can Tho provinces denounced in a communique terrorist measures against the latter body and called on the women to militate with other social sections for the liberty of Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh.*

o On August 24, about one hundred patriots held on Phu Quoc Island rebelled against their warders, killing 8 of them and wounding 6 others. Many of the patriots succeeded in escaping from prison. It was the third revolt at Phu Quoc since June 1970.

The Sharper Exults

RUMOUR has it that Nguyen Van Thieu and his bosses are satisfied with the results of the election to the "Lower House." It is only natural that after so many exertions they should exult.

But what has Thieu earned from this fraud? The majority of seats? It had been decided long before. The list of "MPs" had been ready in the brief-case of "proconsul" E. Bunker, with the only difference that it was not one hundred per cent up to Thieu's expectations. What master and lackey wanted to lay their hold on was all the seats in the House. For this, they did their best to keep all the candidates of the opposition out of the race. Nearly fifty of the latter had their names removed from the list, about ten others were manhandled or pelted with rotten tomatoes and addle eggs, to dissuade them from competing with Thieu's men.

However Thieu sat on thorns. He was afraid that the demonstrators who marched past his residence chanting and displaying slogans and urging his overthrow and the expulsion of his masters from the country would think very little of his understrappers, and he was not sure that they would get votes should a fair election be held; and the last resort left to him was to cheat.

Cheating had always been a speciality of his. Even the most notorious sharpers in Monaco are no matches for him. They have to take their hats to him in the matter of election frauds. In Da Nang for instance, thirty candidates were contesting ten seats. Thieu had voting papers printed for only ten candidates who were his protégés. How could others get votes, let alone be returned?

That was not all. Some observers remarked that in many ballot boxes, the number of voting papers exceeded that of voters, by the masterly hand of Nguyen Van Thieu who

Despite universal cursing
Proves to be a master juggler of the Yanks.

In this election he had chums not only among the candidates but also among the electors. As the latter were in small number, he gave each of them many voting cards so that they could use them in different polling booths. Furthermore, to help the electors in the army, he went so far as to supply them with all means of transport to enable them conveniently to go to the polls and drop into the boxes the ballot-papers bearing beforehand the names of the candidates of his choice. Then the same militarymen doffed their uniforms for plain clothes and went to other voting stations to exercise their franchise as civilians.

Thieu had been scored as a bad general and a bad strategist. But in election manipulations he proved peerless. Not satisfied with securing the majority of ballots for his men, he not only jostled out candidates of the opposition but also kept voters sympathetic to the opposition away from the polling stations on the grounds that "their cards were not in order" or that they "came too late"—"too late" in relation with pro-governmental electors and not with the time-limit of the polling.

Electoral frauds called for anti-fraud measures. Thus many protest actions broke out all over the country such as demonstrations in Bac Lieu, clashes with the police at Vinh Binh, dissenters' attempts to supervise the voting in many localities.

Repression by Thieu's police and army was not late in coming. Tran Ngoc Lieng, chairman of the Committee against Electoral Fraud, was apprehended. And he was not the only one. Before him, Ngo Cong Duc, Ngo Ba Thanh, Huynh Tan Mam, Nguyen Xuan Lap, had been "invited" to stay in one of these "rest houses" which Thieu has set up at Chi Hoa, Poulo Condore, Thu Duc, Phu Loi, Phu Quoc....

Of course, he has won the majority of seats in the "Lower House." Though compared with the previous House, this number is slightly smaller, yet according to the most conservative estimates, it represents two-thirds of the total of "MPs," that is enough to ram through all his policies and legalize all his schemes and acts of treason

Did that satisfy him and Bunker? Not quite so. The rubber-stamp assembly was already there. The operation was merely a kind of facelifting. What they were pleased with was the fact that their tricks had worked.

But popular feeling is running high. In Saigon, protests have been issued and hostile commentaries run in the press. The ousted candidates are raising their voices against the swindle; some of them even intend to take their own life by fire to draw universal attention to the sordid farce. They are pressing for his resignation and a fair election. Indignant are all sections of the population. Mass, social and religious organizations are rallying in anti-fraudulent election committees, holding teach-ins and turning out in the streets for demonstrations.

The atmosphere in his residence is also oppressive. He is on tenterhooks. The hoodlums in his pay are in a turmoil.

The returns of his rigged election, satisfactory to him as they are, however will have unforeseeable consequences. People have warned him against burning his house to warm his hands as the house will be reduced to ashes before his hands are warm.

So Thieu's happiness is strongly qualified because he is sitting on a powder keg.

THIEN LY

The Indochinese Peoples ...

(Continued from page 1)

the building of a strong mercenary army capable of pursuing the war, carrying out pacification work and shoring up the quisling administration at all levels, has proved illusory. Never before the past eight months had the Saigon army received such crushing blows. Seasoned regular units got battered on Highway 9, in Southern Laos, Northeastern Cambodia and at Snuol, knocked down by big chunks, again and again, in clusters and in spite of maximal US air artillery and logistic support.

As a result of the reverses of the mercenary troops, the people's war has been expanding, all areas have been able to intensify actions against enemy control and baffle pacification operations. From the dry-season disaster, the Americans and their Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane agents have not recovered. US troops are weary, sick at heart and reluctant to fight. Saigon soldiery are still smarting from the punishment inflicted by their opponent who continues to deliver other punches from all directions. In their ranks, defeatism is rife, their complete collapse imminent.

Nixon's dream of a position of strength through "Vietnamization" has been shattered.

The scheme seems to be irremediably doomed. In the meantime the strength and successes of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples have been growing in the course of the fighting and their resistance bases expanding into vast stretches, providing support to one another and serving as spring-boards for devastating offensives. The advances made since early this year have brought to each people a fresh stimulus and renewed strength, enhanced their offensive spirit and provided new favourable fighting facilities: closer combat coordination, hence greater possibility of launching large-size operations in all battlefields at the same time: Highway 9 Southern and Northern Laos, Northeastern Cambodia, the Western Highlands, Trung Bo coastal areas, Eastern Nam Bo, and a new offensive force compelling US and mercenary troops, including their mobile strategic forces, to spread thinner, and cope with their opponent's increasingly deadly assaults.

NIXON'S prolonging and widening the war throughout Indochina has more than ever reinforced the coordination of the three theatres of operations and the solidarity of the three peoples, which represents a fundamental advantage for their patriotic resistances, for more gains, for the build-up of their forces and for the expansion and consolidation of their liberated zones. Better than ever before, the 50 million Indochinese understand, support and help one another, share weal and woe, and resist the common enemy. As pointed out by the common declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, their militant solidarity has opened up still brighter prospects for the relations between the peoples of the three countries for the good of their revolutionary cause, and to the great detriment of the US and its clients.

THE Americans are going on with their vicious Vietnamization program of consolidating the mercenary forces, especially those of the Saigon quislings, with their pacification project, stubbornly holding on to the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.

They are intensifying and broadening their aggressive war in Cambodia and Laos, prodding their henchmen there into series of attacks on Northeastern Cambodia and the Plain of Jars in Laos. Simultaneously they continue to bomb many populated areas of the DRVN.

They are still ignoring the seven-point peace overture of the Provisional Revolutionary Governement of the RSVN, and indulging in manoeuvres to hoodwink the American and world peoples.

But they and their native placemen are in a losing posture, on top of a steep slope. Weakening with every passing day, they have lost their initiative of action. Their military, political and economic difficulties are piling up. US quislings in the three Indochinese countries are wrangling with one another. Both masters, and servants are alienated from the masses. Nixon is at an utter loss how to grapple with the American and world peoples' mounting protests.

The US and its stooges are like people caught in a whirlpool, while fortune is smiling on their opponents, the Indochinese peoples.

Following up their successes, more than ever before they will strengthen their solidarity and impel their resistance, determined to shipwreck the "Vietnamization" strategy and the Nixon doctrine on the Indochinese battlefields. Though more obstacles are still ahead, their fight will surely carry the day.

LIVING up to the commitments written down in the common declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the South Vietnamese and their armed forces will resolutely persevere in and push up their resistance until complete victory over the American aggressors for the liberation of the South, the defence of the North and the eventual reunification of their country, thereby bringing in valuable contribution to the glorious cause of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Behind the enemy's lines

Enemy Supply Base Constantly Under Attack

Undaunted PLAF gunners ready to raid adverse logistic bases

A network of war materials and fuel storages has been built and consolidated in North Quang Tri and East Nam Bo to supply US and Saigon invading forces in Southern Laos and Northeast Cambodia. Apart from these there exist other logistical bases of strategic importance along the South Viet Nam coasts. Series of the said bases and staging areas were stormed or set on fire by the PLAF in the first six months of the current year, which caused to the enemy heavy losses and great difficulties inside and outside their defence perimetres.

NORTH of Quang Tri, right after the US and Saigon troops' deployment, their rear bases and depots along Highway 9 came under heavy fire from the liberation regional troops and guerillas who routed enemy forces from Southern Laos. Sa Muu, an oil depot for US helicopters operating in Southern Laos, was raided as early as February 7. The clearing of its ruins needed over 30 choppers and 70 military trucks. In February and March that base was harassed a dozen times by the PLAF. Reporting on the onset on February 28, *AFP* said: "The adversary penetrated into that big base and wreaked heavy damage." In point of fact, millions of litres of petrol, thousands of tons of bombs and shells were destroyed. In the March 8 and 10 assault, 14 military vehicles were wrecked, 100,000 shells blasted and over 1 milion litres of petrol went up in smoke.

At Ta Con, a heavily defended transit and supply centre provided with solid underground stores became the target of a PLAF attack. On March 16, it was pounded by the PLAF artillery which did short work of 17 choppers and a big quantity of bombs and shells. On March 23, 40 aircraft and 18 military vehicles were put out of commission, 7 oil tanks and ammo depots blown up and over 100 airmen and technicians killed or wounded.

The PLAF reapeatedly hammered at the big US logistic bases at Cua Viet, Ai Tu, near Quang Tri town, defended by tens of thousands of GIs and Saigon troops. In a 30 minutes' engagement on February 18, they blew up 16 ammunition and explosive dumps and 4 underground petrol tanks at Ai Tu. In another action lasting 15 minutes on the night of May 21, they erased 16 other ammo and explosive storehouses in the same area. For the third time, despite greater precautions taken by the enemy, in a lightning rush made on the night of June 22, the North Quang Tri PLAF blotted out ten depots of shells, triggering a big fire and explosions lasting for 7 hours running.

On the East Nam Bo battlefield, while the US and Saigon quislings were mounting Operation *Total Victory* 1-71 in Cambodia, their rear bases were also hit. In Tay Ninh they were unremittingly harassed. On the night of January 21, the logistic base of the Third Army Corps at Go Dau was overrun: 200 enemy troops put out of action, 2 ammo depots and many military vehicles destroyed. On February 9, the Tay Ninh PLAF bombarded Ca Tum logistic base, wrecking 31 ammunition storages. In the week ending March 29, Sa Mat was struck at three times. On April 5, the Tay Ninh regional units pounded Ca Tum again, blasting 3 depots containing 2,300 cubic metres of shells and rockets. According to a *UPI* report on April 12, the "Communist" onslaughts on the provinces surrounding Saigon were stepped up markedly. The enemy sent in reinforcements and consolidated the defence in the sector north of Saigon. Late in April and early in May, while they were being bogged down in the mire of Cambodia and had to send troops to the rescue of their units beleaguered at Snuol, the PLAF got harder at their rear. Parallel with the ambushes on strategic Roads 13 and 22, the patriotic forces went many times at many logistic bases and airstrips on the Viet Nam Cambodia borderland. The two raids mounted early in May on Ca Tum wiped out 4 other ammo depots, a petrol tank, many heavy guns and mortars, and over 200 troops. The logistic bases from Da Nang to Cam Ranh were frequently rushed.

Da Nang base, guarded round the clock by tens of thousands of GIs and Saigon troops, was stormed five times in the first four months of 1971. In three onsets on March 28, and April 24 and 28, the PLAF destroyed 57 aircraft, set on fire 10 tanks storing millions of litres of petrol, blew up 700 tons of bombs and shells and put out of action about 100 airmen and technicians.

The Deo Son logistic base, located near Binh Dinh town, catering for enemy units operating in Central Trung Bo, was twice raided by the PLAF who, on January 7, levelled 13 store-houses, 10 barracks, destroyed over twenty thousand tons of shells, 30 military vehicles and took a toll of 100 enemy troops. On the night of April 25, they obliterated in 5 minutes 4 big storages containing 15,000 tons of explosive and rockets and 10 vehicles.

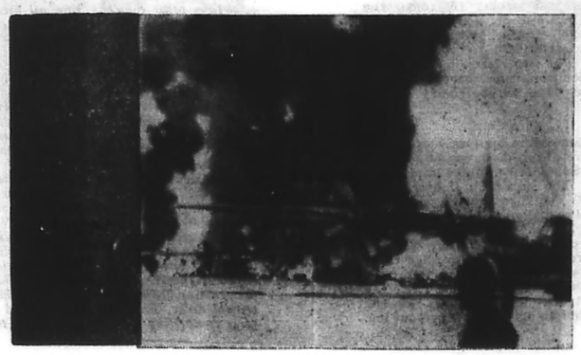
The Cam Ranh naval base, the biggest American logistic complex in South Viet Nam lying deep in the solid defence perimeter consists of a system of strategic reserve stores serving the enemy operations in the three Indochinese countries. The GIs take charge of the inner perimeter whereas the Saigon troops mount guard in the outer one. But this important base is no longer safe. After slamming at the various airfields built all around, on the night of May 23, the PLAF made a deep thrust into the base, played havoc in the naval and air installations and the fuel storage, set on fire 45 million litres of petrol stored in 15 tanks (including over 10 million litres of fuel for jet planes); they also erased the enemy fortifications and killed many guards. *UPI* commented on May 25 that this was the biggest loss in fuel sustained in a single battle.

THE activities of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces operating behind the enemy's lines in the first half of 1971 have thus proved highly devastating for the opponent. In order to make good their political and moral handicaps, the Americans have been concentrating on the technical and material equipment of the GIs and Saigon army. In this connection this very extensive logistical network has been of great importance. The PLAF punches at it will have a far-reaching impact and will force the enemy to divert much of their mobile force to the defence of the supply system.

As a result their troops strength for rescue operations on the three Indochinese battlefields will be also reduced and their shortage of manpower more acute despite vigorous impressing efforts.

As for the PLAF, their new gains in the form of a considerable amount of adverse manpower and material wiped out are strategically important for the South Viet Nam resistance.

THANH HONG



In our liberated zones

RECENTLY, a commemoration of the August Revolution was held by the Committees of the People Revolution of the National Democratic and Peace Forces' Coalition in Thua Thien-Hue together with the people from all walks of life.

At this rally, after a spokesman of the People Revolution's Committee had delivered a speech about the significance and lessons of the August Revolution, the representatives of the mountain nationalities and the National Democratic and Peace Forces' Coalition Committee in Hue city took the floor in turn. The latter's speech said: "The August Revolution of the Vietnamese people who have become mankind's conscience in the Viet Nam era, when the US aggressors are being defeated, has been lighting up the path of the South Vietnamese intellectuals in areas under the US-Saigon control."

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the August Revolution, the Committee of the Peasant Liberation Association in Binh Dinh held a meeting to extol the gains recorded by the South Vietnamese people and liberation armed forces in the first six months of 1971.

Thousands of peasants are reported to have joined the Peasant Liberation's Association; over 45 village Peasant Committees have been consolidated; the province and district Peasant Committees have opened classes to train 550 group leaders and more than 100 village Peasant Committees' cadres.

Thousands of hectares of lands have been distributed to the peasants by the Revolutionary Administration. More than 500 hectares of the virgin lands have been put under crops.

Tens of thousands of people all over the province have risen up against the US aggressors and their henchmen, forced nearly 100 garrisons to withdraw, dispersed 7 concentration camps and "strategic hamlets," recovered control of their lands and hamlets.

AUGUST, A MONTH OF MILITARY FEATS

IN face of PLAF sustained attacks in the three strategic areas, the US and its Saigon quislings last month had to spread thin their ground forces to defend important regions, especially those around big cities such as Saigon, Hue, Da Nang... US aircraft of all kinds including B-52s, in co-ordination with long-range artillery, fiercely struck at the liberated zone in an attempt to check PLAF assaults and defend their defence lines in West Tri-Thien, Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper) and the High Plateaux. Moreover, they constantly dropped spy-commandos for reconnaissance and subversive activities along the borders.

All these measures proved to be ineffective. US-Saigon units on the frontside and in rear bases got heavy thrashings. In the defence perimeter of Highway 9, the liberation fighters levelled many positions and put out of action several Saigon regular units. PLAF infantry, artillery and anti-aircraft units closely coordinated actions with one another, reduced to rubble "Fuller" base, badly mauled the adversary in Dong Toan, Con Tien areas and took control of Ba Ho and Doi Tron installations and the Cam Lo millitary sub-sector. As a result, nearly 1,100 adverse men, including 51 GIs and dozens of Saigon officers, were killed or wounded.

2 battalions and 5 companies of the Saigon strategic reserves forces and 2 armoured cars' units were completely put out of combat, 23 aircraft downed, 38 military vehicles, 9 gasoline depots and many guns and a great amount of ammunition destroyed.

The same wave of PLAF offensives also shipwrecked the US-Saigon "Peak enclave" tactics. It caused big losses in military strength and war materials to the Saigon army while the latter was still smarting from blows received in the past 6 months of the dry season.

Units of US airborne Division 101 scattered along Highway number 12 bordering on the western part of Tri-Thien were repeatedly battered and inflicted heavy casualties.

While the US-Saigon troops were busy coping with growing "Viet Cong pressure" in North Quang Tri and West Tri-Thien, the Liberation Armed forces were very active in the High Plateaux. The highland army and people stormed enemy "special forces" camps and outposts controlling the western side of Highway 14 such as Plei Me (Gia Lai province), Pley Can (Kontum), and at the same time intercepted their reinforcements.

Behind the enemy lines PLAF infantry and artillery units broke through adverse thick defence networks, fiercely hit at a series of logistic centres and airfields: attacks on Tan Son Nhut airport (Saigon), and on US and Saigon regiment and division CPs in various provinces North of Saigon, the onset on a series of logistic bases and training camps along the Trung Bo coastal area from Da Nang to Song Mao. The Cam Ranh strategic logistic centre was again devastatingly assailed in the early morning of August 25. The patriotic forces flattened the whole centre of US strategic logistics' storages, destroyed 32 depots housing over 50,000 tons of bombs and ammunition, of them 5 containing 7 ton-bombs and one underground dump of rockets. They rushed several times many other military ports and naval bases, such as Cua Viet (North Quang Tri), Qui Nhon (Binh Dinh), Ben Soi (Rach Gia) and at the same time intercepted the adversary on waterways and thwarted their "river flotilla" tactics.

PLAF attacks also took place in the surrounding areas and hearts of provincial capitals and cities from Central Trung Bo to the Mekong Delta. The people's armed self-defence forces liquidated hundreds of cruel police agents and puppet administrative personnel right in the streets. Meanwhile, the enemy defence forces in the key "pacification" areas of the delta were assaulted without let-up by the guerillas and regional forces. Hundreds of posts from North Quang Tri to the Mekong Delta had to be abandoned. Several "popular defence" organizations were disbanded, hundreds of companies, platoons and teams of "pacification cadres" had to pay for their crimes, and many "strategic hamlets" were pulled down by big chunks during the South Vietnamese people's uprising to wrest control.

The successes won by the armed forces and people in the delta provinces of Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) in the fight against the US-Saigon "pacification" plan have created many difficulties to the enemy recruitment of troops, and further frustrated their "Vietnamization."

T. C.

Highway 22, A grave-yard for enemy armour

IT was a Summer night. The sky was serene and dotted with stars. Towards midnight, the units of Column 5 of the People's Liberation Armed Forces in East Nam Bo came close to Highway number 22. They immediately set to digging fortifications and making other preparations for the fight, quietly but with a high sense of urgency. Not the slightest noise was heard and not a revealing trace was left behind. The whole battleground though lying within the enemy artillery range was wrapped in absolute secrecy.

Everything was completed before dawn, but the PLAF men had to wait till 12:30 when their CP received word that a big enemy convoy was heading towards them from Lo Go position. C.O. Vinh pressed his ear against the trench wall and heard the vehicles' ever more distinct rumbling. Suspense gripped all the fighters' hearts. Marching orders were then given.

When the four tanks moving in the van came within the ambush range, Vinh signalled his men to open fire. Guns of all calibres of the intercepting unit concentrated their fire on the armoured cars. The first vehicle, loaded with adverse troops was blown up.

Startled by the sudden assault, the adversary fired in all directions. Braving their intense barrage fire, Vinh, as quick as a squirrel, guided his men onto the road, split the enemy into small groups. A recoilless gun shot hit another tank, setting off the ammunition and tearing to pieces over 20 enemy troops aboard. The PLAF fighters waged a close-hand combat with the adverse infantrymen while destroying their vehicles, taking prisoners and collecting their weapons. Vinh got wounded and fell from an armoured car. Immediately his men rushed toward it and made short work of the survivors of the crew. After having his wound dressed, Vinh continued in command. Platoon leader Toan jumped on the enemy commander's vehicle, seized his transceiver, and Squad leader Dinh dashed forward to snatch a revolver from the hand of an enemy lieutenant just knocked out by a liberation fighter' bullet. Vinh's unit now intercepted the fleeing panic-stricken adverse troops.

Coming to reinforce Vinh's unit, detachments 6 and 8 moved up to charge and took control of one road section after another.

Enemy aircraft roared in and rained bombs on a number of targets around the battleground. A HU-1A was hit and crashed in flames as it was swooping down for a strike.

On the main battlefield, fighting went on ferociously. The PLAF support forces' mortar shells were lobbed without let-up on the enemy convoy. A liberation fighter, with his anti-tank gun, blasted to pieces the nearest vehicle and set afire a tanker close nearby which sent up huge columns of smoke and flames. The enemy drew back from the road. A number of them who took shelter under the vehicles were cut down by the fighters' machine-guns.

The adversary in great confusion tried hard to resist, while waiting for reinforcements.

Their artillery at nearby Sa Mat and Lo Go positions were pinned down by PLAF gunners.

More planes were sent in to the rescue of the battered troops, but could do nothing because of the liberation fighters' deadly anti-aircraft barrage. Another helicopter was grounded. Later when spotting the PLAF anti-aircraft gun-sites, the enemy aircraft returned and strafed them furiously. After half an hour of fierce fighting, 4 aircraft including a HU-1B and a AD-6 were knocked down on the spot.

The Liberation ground forces were greatly encouraged by the gunners' new exploit. The attacking prongs kept closing in on the enemy formation. Detachment 8 shock fighters used hand-bombs and hand-grenades to wipe out one vehicle after another.

10 minutes later, the PLAF fighters took complete control of the battlefield. 34 military vehicles with their crewmen were completely put out of action. About 200 GIs and Saigon troops were on the casualty list. 7 aircraft were downed and 4 others damaged. Highway 22, a supply route of the US and Saigon quislings to the Phnom Penh puppets once again was strewn with their own dead.

QUANG MUU
Reporter of the paper **Quan Giai Phong** (*Liberation Army*)

KHMER RESISTANCE FURTHER ADVANCES

WITH success after success since the beginning of the 1970-1971 dry-season, the Cambodian people and National Liberation Armed Forces have been making steady steps forward. Beating off large-scale enemy operations, they have foiled their schemes to encroach on the liberated areas and loosen the CNLAF stranglehold around Phnom Penh.

Throughout the country, from Svay Rieng to Kompong Som, from KompongChnang to Siemreap, the people's resolve to fight and win is high. Their offensives have been gaining in size, rate and effectiveness. The Regional forces have been striking series of hard blows at enemy positions and posts, at relief columns, at their forces on Highways 4, 6, 7, 13..., on the Mekong, in the jungle, in the countryside, in the cities, even in Phnom Penh. The CNLAF recent gains have wrought great changes in the relation of forces on the whole Cambodian battlefield, creating new possibilities to impel the Cambodian resistance.

Endowed with the Khmer people's heroic tradition and steeled in action the CNLAF have grown rapidly, improving their tactics with every passing day and enhancing their capability of destroying more and more enemy troops. The regional forces have fought remarkable battles, serving as hard core units for the fighting in different areas. The guerilla forces have been strengthened in many strategic areas, weaving a large net around the adversary. Holding the initiative, the regular forces have been dealing punches at Saigon troops, writing off whole battalions. The close co-ordination of these three kinds of armed forces has resulted in such exploits as at Chup, Srang, Khnar, Pratheact, Snuol... The liberated zone, — well defended — has been consolidated and extended. The guerilla base of the Khmer people has been linked up with those of the Vietnamese and of the Lao people.

Upholding the banner of union, the National United Front of Kampuchea (NUFK) has been winning over more and more people from urban and rural population.

In the meantime, the Americans and their henchmen of Phnom Penh have met with many serious difficulties. In spite of unlimited US air cover including B. 52's and of Saigon military support, the Lon Nol troops have suffered heavy setbacks and become weaker and weaker particularly since the Pochentong disaster. Serious reverses have succeeded those on Highway 4 and at Kompong Cham: Kratié, Preyveng, Kompong Spu... which have brought shame on the US-paid army of mercenaries. The latter's sad plight was patent to everyone with the quagmire of North Eastern Cambodia, the fiasco of Operation "Total Victory 1-71" and the hasty retreat from Snuol city. Torn by dissensions, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak — Son Ngoc Thanh clique has grown more and more politically isolated. Phnom Penh — Saigon relations have been deteriorating. The people's ring has closed in around Phnom Penh. The Americans have gloomily described the situation in Cambodia as "serious", "tragic" etc ...

The combined actions of the brother South Vietnamese and Lao peoples and armed forces, and those of the Cambodian people and CNLAF over the past months have proved disastrous for the US "Vietnamization policy" and the "Nixon doctrine" of pitting the Indochinese against the Indochinese. Such advances must be ascribed to the sound political program of the NUKF led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, and to the ardent patriotism of the 7 million Khmers actively participating in the resistance, galvanized and organized by the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (RGNUC) with Samdech Penn Nouth as Premier. They are due to of the fighting spirit and abilities of the CNLAF under Vice Premier Khieu Samphan and to the militant solidarity uniting the 50 millions of the three Indochinese countries against their common enemy, aggressive US imperialism.

Though bogged down in Cambodia and in Indochina as a whole, the perfidious and warlike US imperialists will resort to more cruel and machiavellian schemes to make good their failures. The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh gang of traitors will cringe more servilely before Washington and Saigon and pile up more crimes against the Cambodian people. But all this will be but convulsions of a beast at bay.

Q. T.

The DRVN in brief

• *At the 24th Conference of the International Association of Surgeons and the 10th Conference of the International Society of Cardiology held in Moscow, Professor Ton That Tung read a paper on liver surgery in Viet Nam. He made known the latest results achieved in this field under his guidance: the technique of clamping the liver artery to treat liver trauma has been successful; that of cutting the liver artery to treat liver cancer has been for the first time applied in the world and dry hepatectonomy in Viet Nam in the past four years has lowered the mortality rate to 4%, though the number of operations was considerable. His new achievements were warmly acclaimed by well-known medical figures from many countries present at the conference.*

• *Continuing the August Revolution tradition, many Youth Union members and young people working at many public organs in Hanoi have volunteered for the army. Many youth organizations in the said government organs have launched enlisting drives. In the latest recruitment, a large number of Youth Union members and youngmen in the scientific and technical branches have applied to join up.*

• *Workers and public servants at the Hanoi Engineering Plant have developed and applied over 200 innovations in time and motion, including a more efficient process in turning out cog wheels and 50 kinds of new joining pieces.*

• *At a meeting held in Hanoi in his honour, Pierre Gensous Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade Unions who was touring the DRVN, praised the Vietnamese people's fighting example as an inspiring experience for other peoples. He said: "The WFTU is extremely proud to have in its ranks the glorious Viet Nam General Federation of Trade Unions... The world workers' movement deems it necessary to step up its support for the Vietnamese people."*

• *Following its September 1, 1971 note to the DRVN Government, the Swiss Government has made public its recognition of the DRVN, as a prelude to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.*

A group of courageous and tenacious

THE position which group X had to hold as a "bolt' was 70km from Pratheat cross-road. It was a bare hillock 100 square metres wide surrounded by ricefields. Highway 7 was constantly patrolled by the enemy. From the villages bordering on Highway 2 hideously ploughed up by bombs and shells there only remained a few bushes of charred bamboos and some scared and leafless sugar palm-trees. Everything the landscape and the terrain was new to the group. But the men's singleness of purpose defied all difficulties. On the very first day, the group had taken its position at the set time and diligently completed its defence works before sunrise.

On the second day, the position was still not detected by the enemy who sometimes came as close as 20 metres. In the sweltering April heat, our combatants in their fortifications felt very uncomfortable, some of them tormented by thirst and fever, but nobody flinched. Every time they heard tanks rumble or puppet troops hurl insults at one another, they wanted to rush at them.

On the third day, the group further consolidated its defence works. By 8 . 00, two adverse companies respectively from Sala and Kandol advanced towards our fighters who spotted them from 100 metres. The group leader reported this movement to his superiors while standing ready to carry out their orders. At 9 . 30, the enemy were only five or six metres from our position. It was time to swing into action. At 9 . 33, our men opened up. In the first minutes, they captured four weapons and big haul of other war materials. Taken by surprise, the adversary suffered heavy losses. The ground was littered with their corpses while the survivors fled helter-skelter and called in air and artillery support. The battlefield was rocked by bombs and shells which sent up a cloud of black dust and a suffocating smell of powder and smoke. By 10.00, the enemy counter attacked. The group leader and the political instructor crawled towards each squad, recommending a sparing use of munitions. So they had to wait for the adversary to come very near. For two hours on end, group X heroically defended its position, repelling several assaults. The enemy took serious losses without being able to advance an inch.

Past mid-day the heat became more oppressive and the battlefield was literally on fire. Then a convoy of 20 tanks came in in two prongs from Sala. Ten minutes later, both of them were stopped short. The anti-tank fighter of the group destroyed one M.41 and the B.40 squad one M.113. The convoy beat a retreat and signalled in air and artillery support which rained bombs and shells on the battlefield. The ground was thoroughly churned up. Nothing was left intact. Each square meter received in an average three shells, not to mention the bombs and bullets poured from the planes. Our combatants continued to held out. Once the bombardments over, they struck harder blows at the enemy. Another squad mounted an onset and wiped out one

THE Lao paper *Liberation Army* in a commentary pointed out that the US imperialists and their quislings have paid dearly for their reckless military adventures in the current rainy season. They have not drawn any useful lesson from their large-scale "Kou Kiet" and "Lam Son 719" operations.

"Following their fierce aerial bombardments and toxic chemical sprays, the US imperialists and their flunkeys mustered large numbers of Vientiane puppet troops, Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai mercenaries to mount nibbling operations against the strategic areas of Xieng Khoang-Plain of Jars, Highway 9 and the Boloven High Plateaux. At the same time, they sent many Thai battalions to conduct "sweeps" in Xieng Lom area (Sayaboury province) and Phou Sompoi (Luang Prabang province), and smuggled commandos and spies into the liberated zone for sabotage activities.

The US and its henchmen hope that by so doing they can extricate themselves from their quagmire, prevent the liberation armed forces from developing their victories, and win a "position of strength." However, as the US Senator Symington said, these rabid acts of war have not only failed to get the US and its henchmen out of their stalemate, but also pushed them deeper into the abyss.

THE RAINY SEASON IN LAOS

The operation jointly conducted by 10 battalions of Vientiane puppet troops and Thai mercenaries in Ban Nhich and Y Tu areas, West of the Boloven High Plateaux, from June 8 to 11 was smashed. 700 enemy soldiers including many officers were put out of action.

In the Highway 9 area, another operation involving more than 10 battalions also ended in fiasco with many mobile regiments heavily trounced.

Meanwhile, in Northern Laos, the US imperialists and their stooges mustered more than 30 battalions of Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai combat troops with massive US air and artillery support, to nibble at the Plain of Jars – Xieng Khoang strategic area. But they received fierce counterblows right at the outset of their operation. A big artillery ground at Navan was completely overrun."

The paper recalled that in the first two months of the rainy season (June and July), the LPLA and people *put out of action more than* 3,000 *enemy troops, shot down and damaged* 37 *aircraft, and seized or destroyed more than* 1,000 *weapons of various kinds.*

The paper stressed: "Following up the 1970-1971 dry season victory, this is an additional blow dealt at the US puppets scheme to prolong and extend their war of aggression in Laos. The US and its henchmen are meeting with piling difficulties: the US fire support for nibbling operations is being cut down, while the morale of Vientiane puppet troops and Thai combat soldiers is sinking...

"All military ventures taken by the US and its flunkeys will certainly fail to bring them what they hope, instead will drive them into a more critical situation with incalculable consequences."

combatants

M.41. The adversary withdrew in confusion towards Sala. Our officers and men solidly entrenched in their positions, and closely coordinating their efforts had thus routed the first adverse units.

By 15.00, a convoy from Kandol to rescue the battered troops at Sala roared in. The group deputy leader in charge of the assault together with two B.40 servants put out of action two M.113s. The adversary was sent into a real stampede. Another squad pursued them beyond the cross-road, south of Highway 7. Joining forces with another squad it drove the enemy back to their starting position. By 18.00, the roar of planes and heavy guns died down. The enemy had to operate a retreat. Refusing to rest on their laurels, Group X. set about strengthening its fortifications.

A whole day of excruciating exertions had preserved the group's position. Even the wounded remained at their posts, fearless of bombs and shells, continued fighting.

Group X had thus meritoriously fulfilled its task after seven days and nights' fighting. It had knocked out ten tanks and armoured cars and hundreds of enemy troops, and seized ten weapons of various kinds, a big quantity of war materials and important documents from the adversary. It had thus done its bit in the success of the campaign carried out by the patriots in the area.

(AKI)

On the occasion of the "International Day of Solidarity with Journalists" (September 8)

PEN-HOLDING FIGHTERS' SOLIDARITY

LIKE the rest of progressive mankind, the world's genuine journalists have ever since been siding with the Vietnamese people. They have been using all the means of their trade to disseminate and extol the achievements of the Vietnamese in their anti-US effort; they have been denouncing the US imperialists' war crimes and aggressive designs, giving lie to their falsification of facts and "peace" propaganda, and contributing to the defence of the truth.

In recent years they have assembled in the International Organization of Journalists – "an organization that has been continually growing wider and stronger and making valuable contributions to the common drive of progressive mankind for peace, independence, democracy and social progress" – have taken practical steps to support and help the just fights of the South Vietnamese and other peoples of Indochina.

An international competition of journalism was held by the I.O.J. on the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20, 1970). In many countries, I.O.J. branches observed days of solidarity with the Vietnamese people and collected facilities to help South Vietnamese patriotic and democratic journalists.

An *International Conference on the Journalists' duties in the Struggle against US Imperialists' Aggression* was convened in Pyong Yang in September 1969 and the 7th International Congress of Journalists met in Havana in January 1971. Both gatherings passed resolutions reaffirming full support for the anti-US resistances of the three Indochinese peoples and for the righteous position of the South Vietnamese concerning the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question; the resolutions demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from Indochina.

The forthcoming session of the I.O.J. Presidium in Prague (Sept. 26 to 29, 1971) will discuss a program of activity in support of Viet Nam and Indochina including an international competition of posters and reportages on the three Indochinese people's fight, the handing of souvenir banners to patriotic and democratic journalists militating in the three Indochinese countries and an appeal for increased support from the world opinion for the Indochinese peoples.

The above-mentioned activities of the I.O.J. and of the world's genuine journalists constitute a powerful stimulus to the South Vietnamese and contribute to their successes and to the development of patriotic and democratic journalism in South Viet Nam.

IN South Viet Nam, the journalists now working in enemy-controlled areas have to face everyday blatant trangressions of the rulers of the freedom of the press, such as confiscation and fining of newspapers, sacking of editorial offices, arrests and murders of newspapermen, etc...

In Saigon, in only 18 days (from May 6 to 23, 1971) the US and Thieu seized, and prohibited the sale of, 44 issues of newspapers. On certain days, 11 papers were hit at one time. *Cong Luan* on May 11, 1971, remarked that the indiscrimate confiscation of papers by the Saigon administration had become a "state policy."

The more fascist the rulers become, the more stubborn the opposition of honest journalists, supported by various social segments in South Viet Nam cities.

Decisions were taken by Saigon journalists "not to report on any activity of the Saigon administration" and to suspend for one day all newspapers in protest. On Feb. 27, 1971, five journalits went on a hunger strike at the US-Thieu "press centre." More recently the Saigon Press Council put out a series communiques flaying the Saigon administration's "illegal and continuous confiscations of newspapers" and demanding an immediate end to brutalities against, and murders of, newsmen.

Meanwhile, in South Viet Nam free areas, under the leadership of the NFL and PRG, the press has been expanding rapidly. They can now boast 40 newspapers of various kinds, each zone, province and city its own paper. Pressmen here are the object of the solicitude of the authorities and are provided by them with adequate facilities to develop their talents. Overcoming all difficulties, they are fighting the enemy, shoulder to shoulder with their fellow countrymen, by means not only of their pens, but of guns as well. They are concurrently authentic pressmen and courageous fighters who, in the course of combat at the side of PLAF men, collect the latest and most factual news, gather the liveliest features of the heroic and multi-faceted life of South Viet Nam's people and armed forces.

Facts in SouthVietNam have proved beyond doubt that the patriotic and democratic journalists there are not to be subdued by the US-Saigon rule of terror in the areas still controlled by them, nor are they stalled in their march forward by the hardships and dangers of war.

In the last ten years, even in the darkest days of our anti-US resistance, South Viet Nam patriotic and democratic journalists have been present everywhere, and, through their professional activity have mobilized the whole people to keep up the effort against US aggression, and devoted themselves to the cause of national liberation. Their ranks have been constantly swelling.

The Association of South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists, a member of the NFL, is the rallying centre of journalists in the free zone and those in enemy controlled areas. It provides a link between South Viet Nam patriotic and democratic journalists and their counterparts in the world.

South Viet Nam patriotic and democratic journalists understand that their battle for national salvation enjoys the sympthy and support of all progressive pressmen. They are sincerely grateful to the I.O.J and to genuine journalists all over the world, including the USA, who have been continually raising their voices and calling on world opinion for more support to the South Vietnamese people's patriotic resistance against US aggression.

At present, as the US imperialists are obstinately prolonging their war of aggression in South Viet Nam and Indochina, the South Vietnamese patriotic and democratic journalists are all the more aware of their heavy duty and are intensifying their actions against the aggressors. They are coordinating their efforts with their fellows all over the world to defeat the US aggressive imperialists, for South Viet Nam's liberation and for the lofty aims of peace, independence, democracy, and social progress for the whole mankind.

LUU NGUYEN

A Disastrous Economic Policy

SINCE he came to power US President Nixon has shown other facets of his nature: boastfulness, recklessness and trickiness. In point of fact, his August 15 speech on his "new economic policy" aimed at solving two US thorny problems, namely defend the capitalist currency market and shore up the US economy in serious crisis.

THE "GOLDEN AGE"

Once the American financiers boasted that "the dollar has become a world currency better than gold"! After the Second World War, the US gold reserve doubled while US loans to foreign countries reached 11.5 billion dollars. This dream of world financial hegemony was aptly epitomized by President Wilson: He who lends money to the world shall have the right to lead it. While the imperialist countries were at loggerheads with one another, preparing for the Second World War, the US gold assets at Fort Knox doubled. When the conflict broke out the USA had already 20 billion dollars in gold. After its termination, as the other imperialist countries were ruined, the US dollar knew its "Golden Age." In 1949, the USA had **24.5** *billion* dollars in gold or **70** *per cent* of the gold reserve of the capitalist world. The Second World War had further strengthened the position of the dollar. It took precedence of the pound sterling in international payments. Many currencies tacitly used the dollar as standard. The US government undertook to change its dollars into gold for the governments and central banks of other countries at the rate of **35** *dollars to an ounce of gold*. Although of paper, the dollar glowed with gold. It set up throughout the world a series of US empires: industrial empire. technological empire, economic empire and military empire.

But since 1950, the US balance of payments has been in deficit, and the USA plagued by a "gold haemorrhage." In the past 5-6 years, the dollar has suffered important setbacks, and the USA has been unable to maintain a firm financial control over its allies.

Small wonder that Nixon is particularly concerned about US currency and its depreciatiou. Over the past three months, the price of gold has jumped from 35 to 43.94 dollars per ounce. The US balance of payments of the first half of 1971 showed a gap of **12** *billion* while imports exceeded exports by **374** *million*, a record figure. The 1970-71 national budget was short of 23 billion.

THE DECLINE

But the apogee of the US dollar was short-lived. A long financial crisis began with the policy of aggression and expansion carried out by US administrations of the past 20 years. The USA plunged headlong into the arms-race, keeping 300,000 troops in Europe and launching two major aggressive wars in Asia. US military spending rapidly increased. The Korean War swallowed over 20 *billion* dollars and hundreds of thousands of American citizens. In particular, the US war in Viet Nam and Indochina has been one of the most important reasons of the constant deficits of the budget and balance of payments, the rapid decrease of the gold reserve, and serious inflation in the USA. According to available figures, this war has cost more than 220 *billion* dollars. Over 13 billion went down the drains of the limited war in Viet Nam from mid-1965 to mid-1969. To quote many American economists, total spending for the US war in Viet Nam has passed the 300 *billion* mark. Expenditure for the US war in Indochina has been steadily on the rise. This year American outlay in Laos alone has exceeded 2 *billion*.

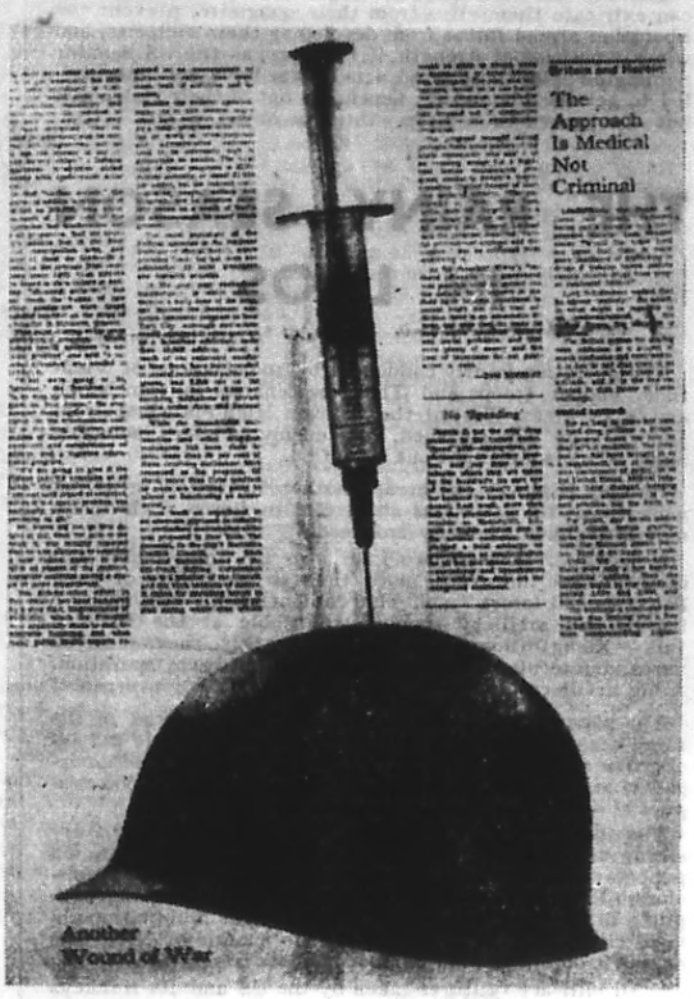
US budget deficit began in 1950. Between 1950 and 1959 it ran to more than 17 *billion* dollars. By the end of 1959, US gold reserve dropped to 19.5 *billion* while US short-term debts abroad went up to 16.2 *billion*. On top of this, West European countries and Japan, which had restored their economy, had become dangerous competitors.

The US dollar's value had been decreasing not only in relation to European hard currencies, but also to the Dutch florin, the Swiss franc, the Italian lire, the Canadian dollar...The gold market was tense with the mounting price of the metal. In the USA and the capitalist countries, there were predictions that the dollar would be devaluated. For the foreigners US banknotes had become a liability, a latent peril. So they wanted to change it for gold or any other more stable currency. The flight from the dollar has resumed since early July 1971 when France converted 280 *million* dollars into gold.

The money market was in utter confusion. The measures taken by the West European countries to get rid of the dollar gave the USA a great headache. Nixon complained that West Europe was waging "an all-out war against the US dollar."

(To be continued)

Kha Dinh



From the **New York Times**

in brief * in brief

— At a meeting held on August 27 at Havana University by the delegations of youth and students from 30 countries, Premier Fidel Castro warmly praised the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression. "To Viet Nam," he said, "international solidarity has been of a tremendous moral and material value. In return, Viet Nam has reciprocated it manyfold with the lesson they have taught the imperialists and the experience they have supplied to the nations, that is, the belief that imperialism is not invincible, belief which they have brought home to their own fighters and the whole world..."

— Recently, a group of the Churchmen from 17 countries in Asia, Africa and South America published a statement urging the US government to terminate its unjust war in Indochina by the end of this year. It pointed out: "The war has converted the United States into a great international bully and its Vietnamization plays off Asians against the Asians, uses US fire power and the blood of other peoples to gain its selfish ends."

— In a communique released on August 26 by the South West Africa People's Organization, the Namibian people militantly associated themselves with the efforts of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, who in their fight against the US imperialist aggression have set a valuable example for them.

— On August 24, the 7th conference of the Youth Union belonging to the TANU passed a resolution which strongly condemned the US aggression in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, reiterated the Tanzanian youth's firm support to the Indochinese peoples and urged an immediate and unconditional pullout of the US and "allied" troops from Indochina to let the Indochinese peoples settle themselves their internal affairs.

— On August 28, in Cuba, a joint communique of the delegations of the Algerian General Trade Union and of the Cuban Revolutionary General Trade Union extolled the successes recorded by the three Indochinese peoples in their heroic struggle against the US aggressors and their henchmen. Both sides totally supported the 7-point peace proposal of the RSVN PRG put forth at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

— At the inauguration session of the annual Congress of the National Association of Students of Colorado University, Professor Daniel Ellsberg called on the American youth and students to push up their actions against the US unjust war of aggression in Indochina. He stressed the important role of the youth in this fight and demanded that the US authorities publish all the documents concerning the dirty war in Indochina.

— On September 1, a mass meeting was held in front of the House of Parliament by 36 Danish political parties, organizations and trade unions. The demonstrators carried flags of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the DRVN, Laos and Cambodia and banners reading: "The US government must set a deadline for the repatriation of the GIs before the end of 1971", "US, pull out from Viet Nam and Indochina", "Immediate diplomatic recognition of the DRVN." Many representatives condemned Nixon administration's negative attitude toward the 7-point peace initiative of the RSVN PRG and the cooked election in Saigon.

— On September 2, at the "reception" Fort Campbell 200 American troops of the 173rd Airborne Brigade just back from South Viet Nam sent a letter to Mr Laird, Secretary of Defense, to protest against the US government's war of aggression in Viet Nam and urge Nixon to promptly end the dirty war in Indochina.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION